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**WAXMAN URGES BUSH TO INITIATE SANCTIONS AGAINST
HEZBOLLAH TV STATION "AL MANAR"**

WASHINGTON, DC – Representative Henry A. Waxman (D-CA) and 22 Members of Congress today sent a letter urging the Bush Administration to prohibit U.S. companies from advertising on Al Manar, a Lebanese television station connected to the terrorist organization Hezbollah. Although the State Department has acknowledged links between Al Manar and Hezbollah the ads may be considered legal because the Treasury Department never designated the station as an organization subject to foreign asset controls.

"This is yet another disturbing failure to connect the dots," Representative Waxman said. "The CIA, the FBI, the new Department of Homeland Security and a host of other agencies are supposed to be shutting down outlets for terrorism financing but dangerous gaps still exist because there is no central authority."

Al Manar, together with Al Nour, a Hezbollah sponsored radio station, is considered the conduit for Hezbollah propaganda and incitement against Israel and the United States. Its 24-hour programming is geared toward recruiting Hezbollah supporters and raising money to support the families of Palestinian terrorists. The lucrative advertising deals have helped the station finance its growing operation, including satellite feeds that reach across the Arab and Muslim world and also broadcast in Europe.

Representative Waxman added, "It is outrageous that there is no mechanism in place to stop or even warn a U.S. company that payments to Al Manar could end up being spent on behalf of Hezbollah."

Any form of financial support for Hezbollah would violate a series of U.S. counterterrorism laws, including the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 (P.L.104-132), which prohibits the transfer of material support or resources to a terrorist group designated by the State Department; Executive Order 13224, which imposes financial sanctions against terrorist organizations; and Executive Order 12947, which prohibits transactions with terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process.

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